

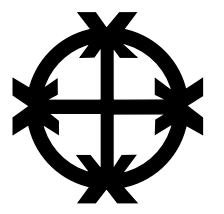


# 50 YEARS

JULY 2012



**50 YEARS FIMCAP  
HISTORY: THE TIMELINE**



**fimcap**



Dear friends

Whilst I'm writing this article, I am trying to ignore the heat caused by the sun coming through my window – directly on my working table. Summer is once more here in Malta... and the temperature is already increasing day by day!

Although you might not be experiencing the same weather or temperature conditions, I would like to share with you some thoughts about Summer.

Lately I came across an article (<http://markconner.typepad.com>) which was comparing different seasons of nature with the life trajectory. This article refers to the long warm days of Summer with the:

- \* 'The time to really put in the work', where there is no room for procrastination. Summer is the period during which nature itself demands long days of hard work. For a farmer it is the season for 'watering the seeds that have been planted and for fertilizing'.
- \* The time for evaluation. Summer is the time when a farmer monitors his field and its progress and makes the necessary adjustments for better harvests.

I think that 'Summer' as a context can be identified within FIMCAP and the same analogy described in the previous two points can be applied. FIMCAP people are 'Summer' people because:

- \* Youth leaders are fully engaged in gainful activities. WorldCamp in Paraguay is an opportunity for the participants to experience one major example.
- \* Youth leaders continuously evaluate youth needs and together with young people they explore ways how to proffer opportunities of further growth accordingly. This year's theme 'What You(th) Need?!' is an invitation for us all to evaluate and value the work done within our organizations for the service of the young people.

The same article cited earlier makes reference to summer heat, which sometimes makes work more difficult, often bringing along discouragement. Our 50th Anniversary is proof that people within FIMCAP are strong enough to live through different challenges with which we are presented occasionally. It is also proof that the FIMCAP family is supportive enough so that the different organizations endure the 'heat'.

Whilst wishing us all the best for the upcoming activities let us not slacken in doing good... so that we harvest in proper time (Gal 6:9).

Marvic Debono, FIMCAP President



# CALENDAR

## FIMCAP Activities

World Camp	Nippac	Paraguay	14 July – 2 August 2012
Eurocamp	Jubla	Switzerland	4 – 11 August 2012
Intercontinental Bureau Meeting		Antwerp, Belgium	4 – 7 October 2012
Next Step	FIMCAP & European Fellowship	Strasbourg Youth Centre	12 – 20 October 2012
FIMCAP Day	FIMCAP		20 November 2012
FIMCAP Europe Bureau Meeting	CCCCCE	Catalonia	November 2012

## LINK: Editions 2012

(Send articles and photos to [link@fimcap.org](mailto:link@fimcap.org). Maximum length: 3500 characters or 700 words)

Edition	Deadline for articles	Send out
04/2012	15 Sept 2012	November 2012



**LINK**  
JULY 2012

## FIMCAP celebrated 50th anniversary in Rome!

In 1962 more than 1,000 young people travelled by train and bus to Rome for a pilgrimage. On the evening of the 24 April, they came together for the official proclamation of FIMCAP, a network that had been established by 11 youth organizations. That evening, the young people listened to a speech delivered by Albert F. Peeters, FIMCAP's first chaplain.

50 years later we are back in Rome. This time there weren't 1,000 young people, but a nice group of 76 people who had come especially to celebrate this anniversary. The group was a good mixture: there were people who had been involved in FIMCAP at some point in the past 50 years and there were people who are involved in FIMCAP now. Different generations of volunteers united, all with a warm heart for FIMCAP.

The weekend started with a reception and an exhibition of the history of 50 years of FIMCAP. Thanks to our friends of Centro Oratori Romani COR this all took place in a wonderful setting in the centre of Rome. All the guests were welcomed by the current presidium: chaplain Gregory Monteiro from India, presidents Marvic Debono from Malta and Lea Sedlmayr from Germany, and secretary general Evy Hoeben from Belgium. It was an evening that brought back many memories and many stories.

Saturday morning the room was transformed into a World Café where, around different tables, topics related to the future and direction of FIMCAP

were discussed. Many good ideas came up, for example the setting up of a network of «Friends of FIMCAP» to stay more involved in FIMCAP even if you're not an active volunteer anymore. In the afternoon, there was time off and the possibility to discover ancient Rome under the guidance of Corno De Mol, who took up this role with much enthusiasm.

In the evening, everybody was expected for the anniversary dinner. The evening was closed with a birthday cake and an inspiring speech of the «older FIMCAP generation»: Annette Leimer, Marleen Deblonde, Franz Denné, Roberto Mauri and Mia Vansintjan talked about the history of FIMCAP, about how activities like the World Camp started and about remarkable people that made FIMCAP grow into what it is today, but who are not among us anymore. They talked about Renzo Maggi, who showed that different language should never be an obstacle. They talked about Pierre Canisius, who worked hard for a truly international FIMCAP but who died in the Rwandese genocide in 1994. They talked about Jef Van Den Audenaarde, who was general secretary of FIMCAP for 22 years. They talked about Pierre Bovy, who

was FIMCAP chaplain and who passed away only a few weeks earlier. They talked about Asaph Huma, who was an active volunteer from South Africa but who was imprisoned by the Apartheid regime and died there. They were all remarkable and strong people who are still an inspiration for FIMCAP today.

On Sunday morning, we gathered early at the Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican to celebrate the Palm Sunday Mass. Together



with this mass, the Rome12 weekend came to an end, but we did not leave without promising to meet each other again soon.

Thank you for being part of the FIMCAP family and thank you for the inspiration and motivation you gave by being part of this reunion!

A special thank you goes to Carla Acerbi from FOI and our friends of COR, without whom this reunion would not have been possible.

*Evy Hoeben, Fimcap Secretary General*



## FIMCAP timeline

50 years of FIMCAP means 50 years of FIMCAP activities. We have put together an overview of all the activities that took place in the past 50 years; you can find it them in LINK.

During the anniversary meeting in Rome, we did a little competition and we looked for the person who participated in the most FIMCAP events in the past 50 years. The winners were Annette Leimer, former FIMCAP secretary general, and Franz Denné, former FIMCAP president. Their prize? An interview in LINK!

Annette and Franz have participated in more than 30 FIMCAP activities. Do you think you can beat them? Take a look at the FIMCAP timeline and check all events that you participated in. Let us know how many events you have!



# Interview with **Annette Leimer**, FIMCAP General Secretary 1986-1998



## **How did you become involved with FIMCAP?**

In 1981, I became one of the two national leaders with Blauring, the Swiss Catholic girls' association. Part of my job was representing Blauring with FIMCAP.

## **What was your first FIMCAP activity?**

The 1981 Euroforum in Natoye (Belgium), organised by Patro, was my first FIMCAP activity – it was love at first sight, and FIMCAP has not let me go ever since!

## **An overview of your FIMCAP career (function and tasks, how long were you active, ...)**

While I was member of Blauring's national team, I represented our organisation with FIMCAP activities: Euroconferences, General Assemblies, Euroforums, etc. In 1986, I was elected second General Secretary with FIMCAP, alongside Jef van den Audenaerde. Jef had the intention of gradually cutting back his involvement with FIMCAP, and since by then I had left Blauring's national team, I was prepared to take on some of the tasks. In 1989, I was appointed the only General Secretary, and I took over from Jef. My family and I moved to Belgium in October 1990, which meant I had the opportunity to work out of Chiro's offices in Antwerp. Before that, and from 1993-1998, after having moved back to Switzerland, FIMCAP rented an office at the headquarters of Blauring Jungwacht. Between 1981 and 1998, the year I left FIMCAP, I attended 34 FIMCAP activities, 17 of which were Euroforums (I didn't miss a single one in sixteen years!), and several of which I helped organise.

## **Tell us about your highlights in 50 years of FIMCAP. What are your fondest memories?**

The friendships forged through FIMCAP are something I will never forget and that will never leave me. At the 50th anniversary, it was really amazing how, after not having seen each other for a decade or more, the

old friendships came alive and there was that same strong bond as before. What I immensely appreciate is how working with FIMCAP organisations, realising their very different and sometimes extraordinarily difficult circumstances, puts everything into perspective. Most of my problems (and those of Europeans in general) are tiny and very trivial compared to theirs! I had the privilege of meeting some incredibly inspiring people and experiencing deeply moving moments – both have made me into the person I am today, and for that I am extremely grateful.

## **How has FIMCAP evolved in the 50 years? Has a lot changed?**

One of the motivations for founding FIMCAP was to enable youth work in developing countries: European organisations founded youth organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America similar to those they came from. Often, priests or nuns working as missionaries in countries in the South founded a sort of satellite organisation. I remember the first General Assembly I attended in London in 1981. There it was decided that not the Europeans working in those countries should be represent the Southern countries, but indigenous people. That change of paradigm shaped the face of FIMCAP. Solidarity was always at the centre of FIMCAP's work. The creation of continental conferences in 1989 was meant to strengthen Africa, Asia and Latin America. Unfortunately, it seems to me that today the opposite is true: each continental conference is busy with their own programme and issues, and the mission of assisting youth organisations in the South has somewhat been lost. Maybe it has a lot to do with the different roles youth organisations have: in Europe, they offer activities for children in



their free time, and competition is heavy; in the South, youth organisations have the task of training children and youth in basic skills.

## **Is there a message you would like to share with FIMCAP and the LINK readers?**

I believe there is still a lot we can learn from each other. Think about how you can make participating in FIMCAP possible for the less fortunate, and most importantly: stay open-minded and be inspired by this intercontinental network of friendship and international solidarity!



## Interview with **Franz Denné**, former FIMCAP President

### **How did you come to join FIMCAP?**

For that I have to explain the historical background: when I became leader with the Katholische Jugend Wien at the end of the 1960s, Vienna had about 1.6 million inhabitants and was surrounded by communist countries which were keeping their borders closed. We had to travel about 300 km to get to an open border (Salzburg). The next large city was Graz with about 300,000 inhabitants. So in order to understand the pastoral situation of the youth in large cities we had to travel to Munich or even further. That's what we did! We collected ideas how to build up an urbanely Christian oriented youth work.

We already had Christian youth groups of labourers, of students, but not of socially mixed groups, as they were common in large cities. Therefore, we looked for contacts with similar movements. It was the Jungschar Austria that opened us the door to FIMCAP: We were invited to participate in a pilgrimage to Rome in 1968. That was my first contact with FIMCAP and its president of the time, Chris Peeters.

The same Jungschar invited me to a FIMCAP conference in Bad Schönbrunn in Switzerland three years later. The topic was Christian youth work in urban areas and there were first ideas for EuroContact, an international platform for encountering which shaped the program of the Katholische Jugend in Austria strongly.

The next steps were given: Katholische Jugend Wien became member of FIMCAP; I worked in the FIMCAP bureau from 1973. One year later, I was elected vice-president and two years later president during the General Assembly in Vienna. I held that position for 9 years. My last activities were the Euroforum 1986 in Austria as staff member and translator, and now the nice anniversary party in Rome in 2012.

The highlights of all these years and my warmest memories:

After 25 years, I have to say that the FIMCAP

years were the richest of my life, years that have shaped me (and not only my interest in languages). Despite different mentalities, we came together with a strong will and knowledge to find a common solution, something that I missed, and still do, in the Church of the adults today. I think my visits to various member organisations were important for a smooth and friendly cooperation (i.e.: London, Liverpool, Düsseldorf, Milan, Lucerne and Marseille and especially my visit to West Africa: Sierra Leone and Ghana) which were the basis for friendships that have lasted until today.

Essential for me (and for whole FIMCAP) were among others:

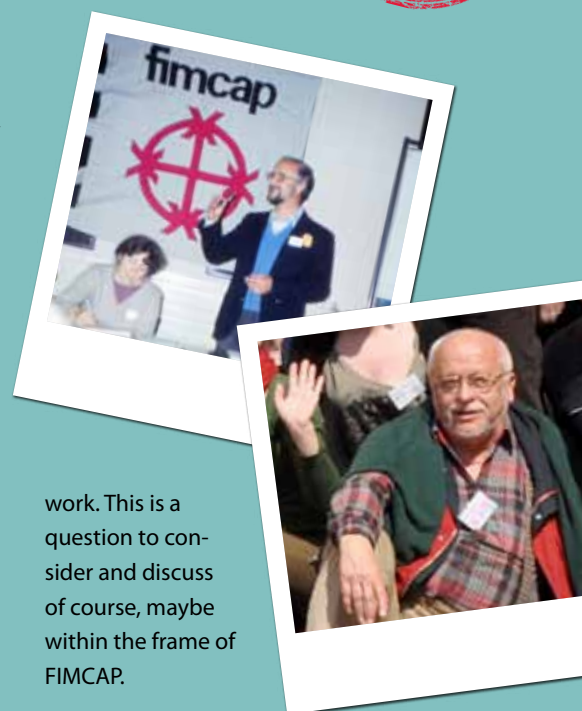
- ★ Eurocamp for children in Bergharen (NL) in 1979: just great!
- ★ the simultaneous Eurocamp for youth (1985) in Randa (CH), Remersdael (NL) and in the Pyrenees (Sp)
- ★ Eurocontacts were very important for the bilateral relations

One story about that: Austria organised a youth camp in the mountains of Salzburg with participants from Italy, France and Belgium. During a big game, a German vacationer stopped her car to ask what we are doing. With pleasure, we explained. Her reaction: «If we had done that 50 years ago, we might have prevented a war.»

In my opinion, Christian youth work changed hugely in the 1980s.

In the 1970s many organisations tried to shape new forms of a «movement», that means with the physical appearance (symbols, badges etc.) and spiritual brands like in Taizé, the Ranfttreffen in Switzerland or spiritual youth encounters. But then, most church-based youth organisations changed to «service stations» in the form of offering help, support, etc., but no commitment.

It was a paradigm change which we did not confront enough. We opened the way for new movements which often do not meet our (or my) idea of church based youth



work. This is a question to consider and discuss of course, maybe within the frame of FIMCAP.

My message to the readers of LINK:

I think it is wrong for a former president to spread messages. YOU know the current situation better and YOU have to address today's problems with your skills.

What I, and many former volunteers, would like to bring from Rome and wish you is: Look after each other also in future and across the borders

We as former, but still interested and involved volunteers, offer you our dialog, our support whenever you think you might need it.

Why such a small organisation like KJ Vienna was able to get so much involved in FIMCAP is easily said, and also important for the leaders of today: it was only possible because we integrated the international work completely in our program!

I will repeat what I already said in Rome and what I experienced there gratefully: FIMCAP is alive! Thank you!

# Interview with **Marleen Deblonde,** FIMCAP President 1989-1995



FIMCAP is shaped by its volunteers. Without them, FIMCAP would have never grown into the organization that it is today. FIMCAP has brought together many remarkable persons, persons that gave almost every moment of their free time to the development of our organization.

Marleen Deblonde is one of those remarkable volunteers. Many of you will have had the chance to meet her, because she was present at 8 FIMCAP General Assemblies. There is almost no role she has not taken on: delegate, vice-president, president, LINK editor, translator ...

Who better to talk to about 50 years of FIMCAP, than Marleen?

## **How did you get involved in FIMCAP?**

I have been involved in FIMCAP since 1980, starting with the translation (Dutch/French) of the book «Under the Rainbow» about the Children's Camp that took place in 1979. The chaplain Pierre Bovy, who knew me from several Patro activities, asked me to help with the translation of the book.

## **What was your first FIMCAP activity?**

My first FIMCAP activity was the Euroforum in Natoye, organised by Patro, in 1981, where I was also asked to translate in the plenary and in workshops. After this great experience, I participated in other Euroforums, first as a volunteer translator, and then later as an enthusiastic Patro participant.

## **Can you tell us a bit more about your FIMCAP career?**

After the Euroforum in 1982 in Italy, I participated in the Euroforum in Switzerland in 1983, where I met my future husband, an Austrian delegate of KJ Vienna. We were both active in FIMCAP, participated in Bureau meetings and at the General Assembly, in 1983 in Aix en Provence, France. At this Assembly, I really discovered the

internationality of FIMCAP and met the African delegates for the first time. After our wedding in 1984, I was asked to represent KJ Vienna in FIMCAP; my knowledge of languages was surely an advantage! 1985 was the International Youth Camp, that was realised in three different countries and at the same time: Randa (CH), Virgen Blanca (Sp) and Remersdael (B). My husband and I were work group leaders and members of the «local» organising team.

After being asked to consider presenting my candidature for FIMCAP presidium in 1986, I was elected vice-president at the General Assembly in October 1986; Roberto Mauri was elected president. During this term, the idea of a World Camp came up and it was decided by the General Assembly in 1989. I was elected FIMCAP President, Joseph Yegbe (CYO Ghana) Vice-President. I was also chief editor of LINK.

In 1990, when the European organisations decided to have their own FIMCAP structure, I became «International» FIMCAP president, with continental vice-presidents. My mandates as Intercontinental president lasted 6 years and ended in 1995. 1992 was a great FIMCAP year, with successful World Camps in Chile and Ghana.

## **But then you continued volunteering?**

After 1995, I was asked to continue as LINK Editor; from time to time, I went to an International Bureau Meeting to keep in touch with organisations and the FIMCAP Secretary. I quit my «job» as an editor in 2004, at the General Assembly of Barcelona, and since then I have been volunteering, mainly translating French/English articles for LINK and documents for the FIMCAP Secretariat. I was also asked to be part of the translator's team at General Assemblies. I was in Ghana in 2001, Barcelona in 2004, Assisi in 2007 and München in 2010. I started my FIMCAP career as a translator and now, 30 years later, I am still active and translating. I really like it. It has been a pleasure to work with and for Zeger, Tine, Emilie, Evy, Pascal, Ramon.



## **What are your highlights in 50 years FIMCAP? What are the warmest and most special memories?**

30 years of FIMCAP commitment and my favourite memories... There are so many: special bureau meetings, great Euroforums, interesting Euroconferences, impressive General Assemblies. The Eurocamp in Randa, Switzerland, in 1985 was surely a great event and a marvellous experience. The celebration of the 25th FIMCAP anniversary in 1986 was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all together, to meet former FIMCAP presidium members and to listen to their stories. Also meeting the South African Chiro delegates like Asaph Huma, someone who fought and suffered the awful Apartheid reality and jail... told us impressive stories. My visits as president to Rome and to the Vatican with Carlos Desoete or Johan Cottyn were also highlights!

The General Assembly in Ghana in 2001 was a fantastic opportunity to get to know West Africa a little better. It was such an extraordinary experience for all of us.

I remember lots of interesting discussions late at night, talking with enthusiastic people, singing and laughing together, all as FIMCAP friends.

Last but not least, the unforgettable celebration of the 50th Anniversary of FIMCAP in Rome that brought together FIMCAP friends, old ones, less old and younger ones. We had a great time all together!

A very personal remark: During my FIMCAP



time in the presidium I gave birth to four children, and my involvement in FIMCAP was only possible thanks to the help of my husband, and of course with the support of my fantastic presidium colleagues: Jef Van den Audenaerde, Carlos Desoete, Annette Leimer, Johan Cottyn and many Bureau members. I am still very grateful for this.

***You participated in 8 FIMCAP General Assemblies. Do you see an evolution in FIMCAP, have many things changed?***

It is true, I participated in 8 General Assemblies, in 4 as an active FIMCAP member and in 4 as a translator. The first General Assemblies were only in Europe. Only delegates from other continents came by plane, most European organisations came by bus, with private cars or by train. The meetings in former times were quite formal, especially the statutory part and its proceedings. The delegates, mostly national leaders of the organisations, were wearing their official organisation uniform, and talked in a very formal way. But evenings and informal moments were moments of sharing and enjoying. Thanking the outgoing and welcoming the new presidium, was a traditional ceremony on the last evening, with speeches, presents and a special dinner.

The study themes were and still are closely linked to the needs of the children and the youth, or to the demands of the organisations. Exchanges have always been fruitful and some resolutions and decisions have proved to be milestones for FIMCAP. The meetings were and still are opportunities to start or to intensify partnerships, to exchange on intercontinental levels and learn about the other realities. Finances have always been an important issue in FIMCAP but we've always managed.

P.S.: Simultaneous interpreting and the necessary equipment were introduced in 1995, which accelerated the work and the discussions during the Assembly.

***Do you have a message for FIMCAP and the readers of LINK?***

I am very grateful for the fantastic time in FIMCAP, the new horizon, the interesting people and issues I met, the friendships that has lasted for years. FIMCAP is a family

where solidarity and friendship are important, to strengthen especially with our brothers and sisters in the southern hemisphere. Thank you to all FIMCAP organisations for meeting the needs of the children and the youth all over the world, trying to make it a better world for the present and the coming generations. My best wishes to the present presidium! You are doing a great job!



## QUESTION TIME!

FIMCAP is celebrating its 50th anniversary. 50 years is long and such history brings many traditions. But where do these traditions come from?

In every LINK we will look back at the origins of one of these traditions. Do you have a specific question? Mail it to [info@fimcap.org](mailto:info@fimcap.org) and we will try to find it out for you!

***Where does the FIMCAP song come from?***

People that have been present at a FIMCAP activity, have probably heard it and sung it: the FIMCAP song! But where does it come from?

The FIMCAP song was written by father Carlos Desoete, former chaplain of Chiro Flanders and former FIMCAP chaplain.

***How did you get involved in FIMCAP?***

I stumbled into FIMCAP rather unexpectedly in 1986, when they were looking for candidate chaplains to follow up the FIMCAP chaplain Pierre Bovy. I was the 3rd candidate, but the roads of Rome are always surprising and the unexpected candidate number 3 became the new FIMCAP chaplain, a task that I was combining with the task of national chaplain of Chiro Flanders and local commitments.

***How old is the FIMCAP song?***

When I came into the presidium of FIMCAP, they were busy with the preparations of the General Assembly of Westmalle (1986), where also the 25th anniversary of FIMCAP would be celebrated. The idea was launched to make a FIMCAP song. Soon I found a melody, a chorus and a Dutch paragraph. The rest we did together: each language group made its own paragraph, either in the

meeting of the office or even in extremis at the General Assembly itself.

#### **Have you written more songs?**

For FIMCAP I've written a few songs, especially in function of the celebrations: a Kyrie and our father in several languages. For Chiro I have made more songs.

#### **Can you tell us a bit more about your time in FIMCAP?**

I have been FIMCAP Chaplain from 1986 to 1992. I have done quite some study work and written several documents. I especially worked a lot on the World Camp. The idea of the World Camp was introduced on the General Assembly of Westmalle in 1986. By the time of the General Assembly of Ryckvelde in 1989 the concept of the World Camp was ready and could the actual preparations start for the World Camp in 1992 that took place on different locations. I was responsible for the camp in Chile.

#### **Do you have a message for FIMCAP and the readers of LINK?**

For me, the importance of FIMCAP lies in international exchange: we can learn so much from each other! But the importance of FIMCAP lies especially in the solidarity with the youth in the South. The priority of FIMCAP should be to ensure material support for the federations in the south, to make meetings possible between North and South but also between South and South... and to find out how these meetings can benefit the working of the local groups.

#### **Thank you very much for this interview and for writing the FIMCAP song!**

## **FIMCAP YEAR THEME 2012: WHAT YOU(TH) NEED?! – FROM NEEDS TO DEEDS**

*During 2012, FIMCAP organisations shall continue to focus on the theme «climate change» – deemed to be an important issue that affects all people around the world. FIMCAP organisations shall continue to support young people's need to express their demands and encourage them to work within their communities to shape a lifestyle which contributes towards a positive future.*

The year 2012 marks FIMCAP's 50th Anniversary – an opportunity during which FIMCAP organisations are invited to reflect about the origins of the organisation as a mind-set for the way forward.

History gives evidence that the term 'youth work' was coined out of a necessity to address the needs of young people. The birth of youth organisations is attributed to the acknowledgement of the social group – 'youth' – in need of education and assistance through their physical, social and spiritual growth.

FIMCAP itself is the result of years of cooperation between youth organisations who answered to the need for creating a platform for youth leaders, young people and children involved in 'development activities in their spare time and in a parish-related context, as well as working ... to build a better world and a living Church'.

Inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, the aims of the organisation evoke youth needs and the necessity to acknowledge and address them accordingly. Therefore, in 2012, apart from celebrating 50 years of partnership, special attention shall be given to the needs of young people.

### **FIMCAP organisations shall:**

- ★ Get to know the needs from the young people themselves and understand how those needs are addressed – What you(th) need?
- ★ Continue to raise awareness on the needs of young people today and the work being done to address those needs – What You(th) Need!

### **What You(th)Need!**

FIMCAP organisations acknowledge the fact that young people need to be provided with:

- ★ opportunities where they can maximise their full potential as members of a social group within their community;
- ★ support so that they understand their rights and responsibilities during their transition to adulthood;
- ★ structures through which they can develop knowledge, understanding and values, thus enabling them to mould a constructive personality.

FIMCAP organisations' work consequently addresses four salient youth work perspectives when tailoring youth work programmes according to the reality and needs of the respective contexts.

### **The need for Education**

Youth work within FIMCAP organisations reaches young people at the grass root level – starting off where young people are – with their own view of their lives, the world and their interests. Educational programmes are devised around specific questions:

- ★ What do young people know?
- ★ What are their beliefs?
- ★ What can they do?
- ★ What interests and concerns do they have?

Youth leaders seek to motivate and support young people to go beyond these starting points and use activities within FIMCAP as opportunities for making new experiences and learning.

### **The need for self-expression**

Youth work within FIMCAP organisations starts off where young people are – but

# 10

**LINK**  
JULY 2012

**50**



**FILMÇAR**

**1962 - 2012**



# fimcap

## timeline

1960

In the framework of the Eucharistic Congress in Munich, a first conference of international delegates of Catholic youth organizations takes place on the 6th of August 1960 (Internationale Delegierten-Konferenz der Katholischen Jungmänner-Gemeinschaften und -Verbände). A commission is appointed to write down the statutes of an international network.

1960

1959

The idea of an international network emerged in Luzern, Switzerland. It is decided to have a meeting on this topic next year on the Eucharistic Congress in Munich.

1961

**FOUNDING MEETING** – 11 organizations decided on the foundation of FIMCAP during a meeting in Munich from 7 – 8 October 1961.

- ▶ Chirojeugd Vlaanderen - Belgium
- ▶ Fédération Nationale des Patros – Belgium
- ▶ Katholische Jungmänner Gemeinschaft – Germany
- ▶ Oeuvres St. Vincent de Paul – France
- ▶ Katholieke Jongenclubs – the Netherlands
- ▶ Jong Nederland – the Netherlands
- ▶ Schweiz. Katholische Jungmannschaftsverband – Switzerland
- ▶ Chiro Burundi - Burundi
- ▶ Kiro Congo - Congo
- ▶ La Centrale des Patros Quebec – Canada
- ▶ Chiro Baguito City – Philippines

1962

**ROME 62:** Pilgrimage to Rome (19-29 April) + official proclamation of FIMCAP on the 24th of April. A speech was given by FIMCAP chaplain Albert F. Peeters. More than 1.000 young people were present, mostly from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. On the 27th of April an international evening was organized where each organization performed.

1963

**1<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Leiden, the Netherlands - *Theme: the bases on which to build parochial organizations for the 17+ age group*

1964

**2<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Berlin, Germany - *Theme: the situation of young people between 14 and 17 years old*

1964

A FIMCAP delegation is received by Pope Paul VI on the 23rd of January

1966

**4<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Brussels, Belgium - *Theme: Youthwork in postconciliar times*

1965

**3<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Luzern, Switzerland - *Theme: Youth work in the Third World*

2 female organizations (Chiromeisjes Vlaanderen and Kiro Congo filles) ask to be member of FIMCAP and are granted membership as the 1st female members.

1967

**5<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Vienna, Austria  
*Theme: the place and formation of small groups – looking towards the Church of tomorrow*

1968

**ROME 68:** pilgrimage to Rome

1969

**6<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Altenberg, Germany  
*Theme: international solidarity*

**1<sup>ST</sup> EUROFORUM** - Altenberg, Germany

1970





# fimcap

## timeline

1970

1970

**7<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - London, UK - *Theme: our common base, the present and the future in Fimcap*

**EUROFORUM** - Breda, the Netherlands

1971

**8<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Bad Schönbrunn, Switzerland - *Theme: common aim and structures*

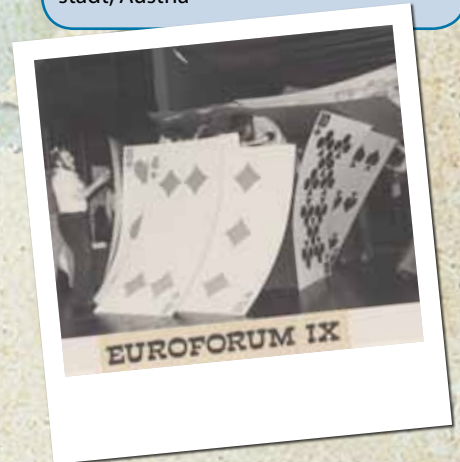
**1<sup>ST</sup> AFROFORUM** - Bukavu, Zaire

**EUROFORUM** - Natoye, Belgium

1972

**EUROFORUM** - Dworp, Belgium

**1<sup>ST</sup> EUROCONFERENCE** - Eisenstadt, Austria



1973

**9<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Marseille, France - *Theme: our work with the youth of today for tomorrow*

**EUROFORUM** - Einsiedeln, Switzerland

1974

**EUROCONFERENCE** - Gemen, Germany

**EUROFORUM** - Ottenstein, Austria



1975

**10<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Rome, Italy - *Theme: the organisation of Fimcap*

**EUROFORUM** - Canterbury, UK

A FIMCAP delegation is received by Pope Paul VI on the 15th of October



1976

FIMCAP is recognized by the Holy See. FIMCAP is now on the register of the Laity Council in Rome

**EUROFORUM** - Nijmegen, the Netherlands

**EUROCONFERENCE** - Eischoll, Switzerland

1977

**11<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Vienna, Austria - *Theme: situation of children and youngsters - children's rights*

**EUROFORUM** - Oostmalle, Belgium

1978

**10<sup>TH</sup> EUROFORUM** - la Garde Freinet, France

**EUROCONFERENCE** - Natoye, Belgium

1979

**12<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Luzern, Switzerland - *Theme: the parish*

**EUROFORUM** - Oberwesel, Germany



1980

**1<sup>ST</sup> EUROCAMP** - Bergharen, the Netherlands  
International Year of the Child  
700 children from 8 European countries met during 7 days and played together on the theme of the Arch of Noah



# fimcap

## timeline

1980

1980

**EUROFORUM** – Altenmarkt, Austria

**AFROFORUM** – Bujumbura, Burundi

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Heusden, Belgium

1982

**EUROFORUM** – Varese, Italy

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Matrei, Austria

**AFROCONFERENCE** – Kigali, Rwanda

1981

**13<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - West Wickham, UK - *Theme: relations between the European federations and those of the developing countries*

**EUROFORUM** – Natoye, Belgium

1983

**14<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Aix en Provence, France  
*Theme: International Year of Youth – participation, peace and development*

**EUROFORUM** – Hünenberg, Switzerland

1984

**EUROFORUM** – Westmalle, Belgium

1985

**EUROFORUM** – Natoye, Belgium

**EURO CAMP** – 3 locations, close to borders: Remersdael (Belgium), Randa (Switzerland) and Virgen Blanca (Spain). 550 youngsters from 9 European countries split up in 3 subcamps and worked on the themes of the International Year of the Youth.

1986

**15<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Westmalle, Belgium

Celebration of the 25th jubileum of Fimcap

**EUROFORUM** – Westmalle, Belgium

**EUROCONTACT** – Melk, Austria

**EUROCONTACT** – Temu, Italy

1987

**EUROFORUM** – Leibnitz, Austria

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Natoye, Belgium

**AFROCONFERENCE** - Kigali, Rwanda

1988

**EUROFORUM** – Einsiedeln, Switzerland

**EUROCONTACT** – Heidelberg, Germany

1989

**16<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Ryckvelde, Brugge, Belgium - *Theme: living in an intercultural world*

**EUROFORUM** – Veldhoven, the Netherlands

**EUROCONTACT** - Malta

1990



**EUROCONFERENCE** - Gazzada, Italy

**AFROCONFERENCE** – Nsawam, Ghana





# fimcap

## timeline

1990

1990

**EUROFORUM** – Brescia, Italy

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Randa, Switzerland

1991

**EUROFORUM** – Westmalle, Belgium

**EUROFORUM** – Milan, Italy

1993

**EUROFORUM** – Kandersteg, Switzerland

**EUROCONFERENCE** - Veldhoven, the Netherlands

1992

**17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Brugge, Belgium - *Theme: foreigners*

**1ST WORLD CAMP** – Chili & Ghana

1994

**EUROFORUM** – Someren, the Netherlands

1995

**18TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Randa, Switzerland

**EUROFORUM** – Westmalle, Belgium

1996

**EUROFORUM** – Natoye, Belgium

**AFROCONFERENCE** - Botha's Hill, South Africa

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Loreto, Italy

1997

**EUROFORUM** – Hohenholten, Germany

1998

**EUROFORUM** – Denmark

**EUROCONTACT** - Malta

**19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Botha's hill, South Africa - *Theme: youth and sexuality*

**EUROCONFERENCE** - Malta

1999

**EUROFORUM** - Seidenstetten Austria

**AFROCONFERENCE** – Windhoek, Namibia

2000





# fimcap

## timeline

2000

2000

**EUROFORUM** – Switzerland

**WORLD CAMP** - Paraguay

**EUROCONTACT** – Malta

2002

**EUROFORUM** – Sweden

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Burg Wildeg, Austria

**AFROCONFERENCE** - Botha's Hill, South Africa

**WORLD CAMP** – the Philippines

**CHAPLAINS MEETING** – Uganda

2005

**EUROFORUM** – Westmalle, Belgium

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Bratislava, Slovakia

**AFROCONFERENCE** – Bujumbura, Burundi

**1<sup>ST</sup> AFRO ATELIER** – Kigali, Rwanda

**22<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Assisi,

2008

**EUROFORUM** – Malta

**EUROCONTACT** – Burg Wildeg, Austria

2010

2001

**20<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - Ghana  
*Theme: young people, protagonists of peace*

**EUROFORUM** – Cesenatico, Italy

**CHAPLAINS MEETING** – Rome, Italy

2003

**EUROFORUM** – Buren, the Netherlands

**EUROCONTACT** - Malta

2004

**21<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – Barcelona, Spain  
*Theme: young people in a globalizing world*

**EUROFORUM** – Kaunas, Lithuania

**EUROCONTACT** – Tilburg, the Netherlands

2006

**EUROFORUM** – Barcelona, Spain

**EUROCONTACT** – Loreto, Italy

**WORLD CAMP** – Congo

2007

**EUROFORUM** – Melchtal, Switzerland

**EUROCONTACT** – Lithuania

**EUROCONFERENCE** – Bruges, Belgium

**AFROCONFERENCE** – Kisubi, Uganda

2009

**WORLD CAMP** – India

**EUROCONTACT** – Modra, Slovakia







# fimcap

## timeline

2010

2010

EUROCOURSE – Lithuania

EUROCAMP – Malta

23RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Munich, Germany - Theme: climate change

ASIAN CONFERENCE – Sri Lanka

AFROCONFERENCE – Johannesburg, South Africa

EUROCONFERENCE – Malta

EUROCAMP - Switzerland

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIMCAP

2011

EUROCOURSE – Antwerp, Belgium

EUROCAMP – Spain

ASIAN CONFERENCE – Kerala, India

2012

EUROCOURSE – Munich, Germany

WORLD CAMP – Paraguay



2020





does not end there. Marketing strategies often influence how young people express themselves. However, FIMCAP organisations encourage young people to think critically about their lives and values. Youth leaders strive to understand young people's inner voices through constructive dialogue – a process which encourages and enables young people to express their emotions and aspirations through creative and challenging experiences.

Youth leaders understand that FIMCAP is a platform that in itself represents diversity and encourages young people to express their own realities whilst acknowledging and experiencing others.

### The need for Active Involvement

Youth work within FIMCAP organisations encourages young people to share responsibility and become equal partners with youth leaders – a salient process which involves young people in making decisions which affect their own and other people's lives and environments.

Youth leaders within FIMCAP vouch for young people's full involvement within the organisations, as young people are regarded as the main protagonists of the organisation. Young people are given the opportunity to be on the highest rung on the ladder of participation through FIMCAP activities.

### The need for Empowerment

Youth work within FIMCAP organizations encourages and enables young people to understand their rights and responsibilities. FIMCAP organizations give young people the opportunity to become empowered – to assume their responsibility as citizens of their respective communities. Consequently,

young people are able to engage with the personal, social, political and faith-based issues affecting their lives and that of others.

### What You(th)Need?

The year 2012 is envisaged to be a year during which FIMCAP organizations are invited to take to continue reflecting on young people's needs so that they can identify relevant needs! In this respect FIMCAP organizations shall

- ★ involve young people to reflect whether their needs are addressed within the respective working contexts;
- ★ support the participation of young people so that they address and meet their own needs;
- ★ react in accordance with the youth needs presented within a respective context.

The outcomes of such an exercise are entrusted to portray FIMCAP's relevance at this time and age. Moreover, it should be an inspiration for youth work within our organizations and a strong foundation stone for the years to come.

**In 2012, FIMCAP organizations shall continue to support the need of young people to express their demands and encourage them to work within their communities to shape a lifestyle which contributes towards a positive future.**

Within the FIMCAP organizations we have the unique opportunity to get to know the youth's needs from the young people themselves and understand how these needs should be addressed – What you(th) need? Based on this knowledge our organizations also have the responsibility to keep raising awareness about the needs of young people today and the work necessary to address these needs – What You(th) Need!

FIMCAP organizations need to recognize the fact that young people need to be given the opportunity to develop their full potential as members of society. Further, we should support young people so that they understand their rights and responsibilities during their transition to adulthood. We provide structures through which they can develop knowledge, understanding and values, thus enabling them to shape a constructive personality.

2012 is envisaged to be a year during which FIMCAP organizations are invited to continue to reflect on young people's needs so that they can identify relevant needs! In this respect, FIMCAP organizations should involve young people to find out whether their needs are addressed within the respective working context, so that, apart from supporting young people's participation, they will address and meet their own needs. Furthermore, is it our goal to react in accordance with the youth needs that are presented within a respective context.


Within our organizations, we are at the right place to tackle these questions, just as we have done for the past 50 years, so let's continue our work.

## Dream travel

Sometimes it's hard to picture what you(th) wants, so this little activity can be a starting point to make people think about what their wishes and dreams are for the future.

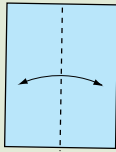
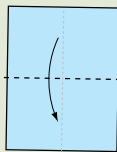
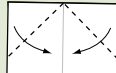


To help your participants to start thinking about their wishes and dreams for the future, take them on a dream trip. Find a quiet place where others won't disturb you, indoors or outdoors. Ask your participants to lie down or find a comfortable position so they can relax and close their eyes. You can play some quiet music in the background.

To get everybody to relax ask the participants to concentrate on their breathing for a little while. Then ask them to imagine that they are in a beautiful house where the sun is shining through the windows and they are at ease. They are walking towards a door. Behind the door, they see themselves three, five, ten years from now (depending on the age group of the participants). Ask them to picture where they will be, maybe in school, maybe travelling or on a family event.



**Origami Boat Instructions**

origami-fun  
www.origami-fun.com





1. Start with a rectangular piece of paper, coloured side up. Fold in half, then open.

2. Fold in half downwards.

3. Bring corners in to centre line.

4. Fold uppermost layer upwards & do the same to the back. Crease well.

5. Pull the sides out and flatten.

6. Fold front layer up to top, then do the same at the back.

7. Pull the sides apart and flatten.

8. Gently pull the top parts of the model outwards, making a boat shape.

9. Flatten well to crease all folds. Then open out slightly, forming a boat shape. Finished Boat.

Picture how they feel in the position they are. After they've spent some time looking at their future they should leave the room again and leave the house. Now ask them to slowly open their eyes again.

After the dream travel, everybody should write or draw their dreams on a square piece of paper. If a river or lake is nearby, let your participants fold their paper into a little paper boat, otherwise let them fold a paper crane.

If you have paper boats go to the lake or river and let the boats sail away. They are a


symbol for the journey we need to undertake to make the dreams and wishes the boats are filled with come true; we are the captain of this journey.

If you have paper cranes, attach a little piece of string to it and hang it in a tree. The symbolism is similar: set your crane free and it can fly on its journey with your dreams for the future on its wings.

Material you need:

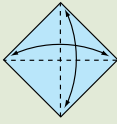
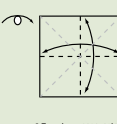
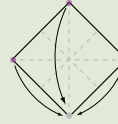

- ★ square pieces of paper
- ★ scissors
- ★ pens
- ★ string, needle

Lena, President FIMCAP Europe



**Origami Crane Instructions**

origami-fun  
www.origami-fun.com


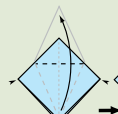
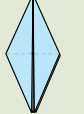
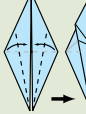
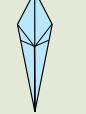





1. Start with a square piece of paper, coloured side up. Fold in half and open. Then fold in half the other way.

2. Turn the paper over to the white side. Fold the paper in half, crease well and open, and then fold again in the other direction.

3. Using the creases you have made. Bring the top 3 corners of the model down to the bottom corner. Flatten model.

4. Fold top triangular flaps into the centre and unfold.

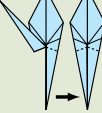
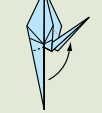
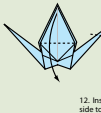

5. Fold top of model downwards, crease well and unfold.

6. Open the uppermost flap of the model, bringing it upwards and pressing the sides of the model inwards at the same time. Flatten down, creasing well.

7. Turn model over and repeat Steps 4-6 on the other side.

8. Fold top flaps into the centre.

9. Repeat on other side.

10. Fold both 'legs' of model up, crease very well, then unfold.

11. Inside Reverse Fold the 'legs' along the creases you just made.

12. Inside Reverse Fold one side to make a head, then fold down the wings.

Finished Crane

# WORLD CAMP PARAGUAY: PREPARATIONS STARTED ALL OVER THE WORLD!

## Car Wash & Bazaar

In preparation for the FIMCAP World Camp 2012 with the theme 'Building solidarity through friendship and hope', which is going to be held in Paraguay this summer, the three Maltese participants decided to raise some funds in order to be able to do this experience. We considered a number of possible fundraising events which could attract enough people to raise some money. We decided that the ideal activities would be a car wash and a bazaar.

The car wash was held on March 3rd in the Parish Square of Hal Tarxien. This activity was heavily promoted through Facebook and emails, parish notices, a street banner and posters in all ŻAK centres in Malta. Following several days of rain, the sun shone from early in the morning on the day of the car wash. Together with the help of several ŻAK members, we managed to wash 67 cars until 6pm. The car wash gave us an excellent opportunity to speak with the locals and to explain the aim of the event. Some were truly interested in our participation in the World Camp and the volunteer work that we will do.

The car wash was a boost for the promotion of the bazaar. There is a saying which says «One man's trash is another man's treasure» and this was proved right. People tend to refrain from throwing away unwanted things; however, at some point, everyone needs to clear up the garage or storage room. In fact, people donated all sorts of things, varying from handbags to scarves, from ornamental figures to brand new kitchen appliances and from books to toys. The bazaar was held at the ŻAK Birzebbuga centre between 18 and 22 April. The heartfelt generosity of the people helped us greatly; in fact, we managed to sell quite a lot of things with the result of earning a considerable sum of money!

Both the car wash and the bazaar created a win-win situation because people got their car washed, were able to get their junk or made a good bargain, while supporting us in taking another step towards the work we will be doing in Paraguay.

*Carina Nagiah, Christopher Bonnici and Clayton Tabone, ŻAK Malta*

## European Preparation Seminar at Bratislava

In 3 months the World Camp in Paraguay will start! To be well prepared, FIMCAP Europe organised a seminar in Bratislava for all the European participants. From 9 to 13 May we all enjoyed eRKO's hospitality. I can definitely say that everybody was very anxious to meet the participants from the other FIMCAP organisations. With volunteers from Denmark, Lithuania, Austria, Malta, Belgium, Catalonia, Germany and Slovakia, it was really a fun experience where we learned a lot. The first day was all about getting to know each other and finding out more about FIMCAP. With a little quiz, we learned about all the FIMCAP organisations. Did you know, for example, that the flag of Uganda has a grey crowned crane? Of course we also received some more information about the

World Camp and the different projects we will participate in. Now we really can't wait to leave for Paraguay!

Everyday around 10 a.m., after morning prayers, it was time for our Spanish lesson. Our teacher (or should I say «maestro») Dani tried to keep the lessons as fun and simple as possible, but even then it was very difficult for some of us. We need to take some extra lessons before leaving for Paraguay, I guess...

One of the main goals of this seminar was to exchange about the subject volunteering, which will also be an important subject at the World Camp. How do our organisations support their volunteers? Why do people volunteer? How can we promote volunteering? Our brainstorming was already very useful, we will bring the results with us to



Paraguay...

Apart from the different courses, we were also real tourists in Bratislava: visiting the eRKO headoffice, eating the traditional dish «Halusky» in an old theatre, beautiful walks to the castles Bratislava and Devin ... It was very nice to see the city and in meanwhile getting to know each other better.

We can definitely say that the seminar was a success. We had a great time with FIMCAP in Bratislava. FIMCAP Europe is ready for the World Camp!

*Kirsten Baumans, Chiro Flanders*



## Partnership visit from CHIRO Philippines in Switzerland

Every two years Jubla Switzerland gets a visit from their partner organisation CHIRO Philippines. So this spring 8 highly motivated CHIRO leaders travelled all the way to Europe to receive an insight into the world of Jubla as well as to visit Switzerland. The Jubla partnership committee is responsible for the contact with CHIRO and the organisation of the three-week visit.

On Friday, 30 March 2012 Mitzi, Vhan-Vhan, Chino, Ehman, Pauline, Jonie, Ojie, and Deogracias landed in Zurich early in the morning after a long flight, and a few members of the Jubla partnership committee welcomed them joyfully.

After a short rest, they enjoyed a sightseeing tour in Zurich. In the evening, a welcome party in Giswil in central Switzerland was given for the 8 Philippine guests. Apart from a presentation of the local Jungwacht group with clairon band, they got to know a cow bell tradition. Later in the evening, we enjoyed traditional Swiss accordion music and the CHIROs even danced to Swiss music.

Next day we planted a partnership tree together, just as we did in the Philippines last summer. In the afternoon, everybody enjoyed a Jubla activity with a local group. The CHIROs got to know Jubla games and they showed us CHIRO games. The day ended with a nice chocolate fondue and a HaloHalo (a famous dessert from the Philippines).

A special event was the cultural brunch in Giswil on Sunday morning. During the brunch, the CHIROs presented a program with Philippine dances and songs. Also, the Swiss performed Swiss culture with the Swiss music ladies and the accordion group. And not to forget the excursion into the snow was a highlight of the day for the CHIROs.

Twice during those three weeks, the CHIROs spent a few days in host families to experience a part of Swiss daily life.

The host families were free to set up a program with their two new family members, so those days were very individual. The CHIROs appreciated the time in the host families very much. Most of the visitors even cooked a traditional Philippine meal for them.

The CHIROs spent the second week in a Jubla leader training course. In groups of two they participated in a Jubla district camp and got to know various regions of Switzerland. In the course, they could really experience the world of Jubla and its leader training, learning pioneer techniques and a two-day hike. The exchange between the CHIROs and Jublas was of course also a great experience for the leaders of Jubla.

The visitors spent their last week in the region of Basel-Solothurn and they were hosted again in families. The last Friday a Cultural Night took place and many people came to say goodbye. The CHIROs performed again and gave a wonderful show. The last Saturday was full with a great Jubla activity with children from a local group in the countryside, and on Sunday, it was already time to say goodbye.

During their stay here in Switzerland, our Philippine friends also visited Jubla headquarters and the Swiss Lenten Fund. We can look back at an unforgettable time with the CHIROs. It is so great how lively our partnership is. Next year it is planned to send again some leaders from Jubla to the Philippines to visit the CHIRO.

*Jennifer Germann, JUBLA international partnership committee*



## 2ND FIMCAP ASIA CONFERENCE IN KERALA, INDIA VANDANAM!

It was a bright sunny on December 27, 2011, when participants from different Asian countries gathered in the Pastoral Orientation Center in Palarivattom, Cochin, Kerala in India for the second Fimcap Asia Conference.

President Jomon Thomas Vellapaly and secretary Marie Gutierrez were present together with delegates from India and Sri Lanka. There are officially only three organizations in FIMCAP Asia, but other FIMCAP people also joined the event: FIMCAP chaplain Fr. Gregory Monteiro came with five leaders from Chiro Vlaanderen and one from Jong Netherland. With the special participation of different FIMCAP friends, the gathering became more alive.

### The Theme

The theme of the conference was: **Youth – Stewards of the Environment and Messengers of Peace.** At first, Fr. Stephen Alathara talked about how the internet makes us neighbors but not yet friends. He said, FIMCAP can help people become more fraternal and in solidarity with one another through the genuine deepening of friendships.

He mentioned that today we need a new evangelization – a personal encounter with Christ in our lives. Otherwise, we are just mechanical. Christ is the very center and the one responsible for doing everything for us. FIMCAP Asia feels with the church and works for the church. And when FIMCAP talks about Climate Change, we keep in mind new evangelization. In fact, our advocacy's environmental policies have their roots in the Gospel of John. We were reminded that when we make our action plan, it should evolve from both scripture and our faith.

Fr. Stephen said that Pope Benedict encourages the church to be very active in the internet because a new world is there. In fact,

the Vatican is updating more and more in Youtube and Facebook. The internet is therefore an avenue for evangelization. In the same way, FIMCAP can effectively advocate through social networking.

As concrete manifestation of Asia's commitment to nature, the group agreed to identify environment friendly behavior, especially when organizing youth events, share them with FIMCAP and post them on the website. The actions are simple, yet capable of creating a significant and powerful impact on the environment when applied.

A significant part of the conference was the commitment ceremony on the banks of the River Periyar. The Asian Presidium witnessed how several sectors pledged their commitment. It was followed by a unique eco-meditation in the chapel. The ceremony was a prelude to another seminar which capped the conference – the COYA Day.

The final event organized by ICYM was the Catholic Organizations for Youth in Asia Day (or COYA Day). Several environmentalists and dignitaries came to talk about the role of the youth and ways to help save the planet. The speakers provided detailed presentations and examples which the students appreciated. For the first time, different organizations in India agreed to come together for a fellowship. It was quite special.

### The top priorities

The top three priorities identified by the Presidium are Climate Change (Pubuduwa), Training of Leaders (Chiro) and New Evangelization (ICYM). In addition, Asia agreed to look into FIMCAP's year theme on the needs



of children and young people, especially the different aspects of growing-up and development. After a short roundtable discussion, there were several questions. We realized that more can be discovered about the subject, and we look forward to a more detailed discussion in the next Asian Conference.

Another urgent concern is inviting new members. Asia envisions becoming a full blown region which can only happen if more organizations join. Everyone agreed on a process. But there is a catch. Asia's unique situation poses one major difficulty: finding a reputable Catholic organization which works similarly with children and youth. Since most of the Asian Catholic churches are still in their forming stage, how could it then be possible to find an established organization which is interested and, more importantly, could qualify as a FIMCAP member organization? It is a difficult task. But Asia as a continent is growing with each passing moment we will keep our fingers crossed.

For FIMCAP's 50th anniversary everyone

agreed to hold a mini celebration within their organizations in solidarity with member organizations all over the globe.

### More than a Conference

In 4 days, everyone had the chance to meet up with old friends from the last World Camp and see a little more of Kerala. Everyone had a glimpse of the nice Athirappally waterfalls and discovered a bit more about the Sylo-Malabar Church. It was interesting to find out about the different church rights and the situation of youth movements. Most participants experienced New Year in Kerala, which is very unique. The Chiro joined Fr. Gregory in his home town while some visited friends in Delhi and Trivandrum where Ayurvedic medicine and pink beaches are everywhere. There was so much more to see but there was not enough time nor means to go around.

But further down the road, in 2014, FIMCAP Asia hopes to organize an event for the next Asian Youth Day in Korea! It is a nice thought to see each other again in a different place and pick up where we left off.

Meanwhile, it is time to prepare for the 3rd Asian Conference. May the experience be as meaningful and twice as fulfilling!

*Ravi Rounak, ICYM*

*Rohan Appuhamy, Kithudana Pubuduwa*

*Marie Gutierrez, Chiro Philippines*

## ISKRAMOL 2012 CHIRO PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CAMP!

### Participants report about their unique camp experience

«There are a lot of things I am grateful for. Truly, it was like a dream come true. It was really worth the wait for all children and leaders who either participated or volunteered.

Inspired by my Krinkel camp experience, I wanted the Iskrambol camp to be a festival. Everything had been patiently worked out: from the lively camp ground atmosphere, the adventure activities, to the mass game and the national concert! Many things we tried out for the first time and we were very happy with the results.

Days after the camp, Facebook became the silent witness to the Iskrambol hangover. Almost everyone shared their unforgettable stories and photos. Amazing! Each Chiro member is certainly looking forward to next National Camp! You are invited. See you at Iskrambol 2015!»

*Jeffrey Vicente*

### The challenge

«Apart from the distance between the meeting venues and work adjustments, multi-tasking became a big challenge for me (paramedic, the gift registry and being finance assistant). I had to be flexible to do my tasks well.

As a paramedic, I had to quickly decide about what the patient needs and also be resourceful. It taught me to go beyond my abilities. During the camp, I discovered and proved to myself that I am indeed in love with Chiro.»

*Hazel Joy Sortijas*

### Why is it special?

«This year's Iskrambol was made special mainly because it was also a venue of Chiro Philippines' 60th anniversary celebration. So, instead of the usual 4-day camp, it was extended to 5 days of exciting activities.

The camp was held in the city where the very first Chiro group was established in the Philippines – Baguio! We entered into a magical world of the children where the story of the camp revolved – a kingdom, four villages, and a mystery to solve. There were 400 young people from almost every Chiro group in the archipelago.

The concert the last night of the camp rocked everyone's heart. It was the first time we organized a concert in a national camp and everyone truly enjoyed it. Since the methods and some activities are new for us, we can say it was a milestone for Chiro Philippines, a level higher.»

*Christopher Capiral*

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## LOST IN TRANSLATION? COMMUNICATION & PARTICIPATION! PROJECT EURO COURSE 2012 – THE MAKING OF

### What is EuroCourse?

**Once a year leaders from the European organizations of FIMCAP meet at EuroCourse. EuroCourse is an international training course, where young people work together on a certain topic, get to know each other and learn about each other's culture and organization.**

Every year EuroCourse is hosted by another youth organization. Thus, the participants have the unique opportunity to experience the working methods of the host organization. The project is usually supported by the program Youth in Action of the European Union. EuroCourse is a great chance to meet interesting people from all over Europe and to exchange about voluntary youth work. In 2012 KJG München & Freising, a diocesan group of the German FIMCAP member KJG, hosted the EuroCourse.

**March 2011** – A group of volunteers of KJG München & Freising had the idea of hosting EuroCourse 2012. Important decisions in KJG had to be made by the diocesan General Assembly, so we started a petition.

**July 2011** – We presented the petition to the General Assembly of KJG München & Freising. The assembly consists of delegates (about 100 in total) from the deaneries and working groups of KJG. The delegates accepted the petition with a huge majority. We elected a team which would be responsible for EuroCourse. The preparations could start!

**July/August 2011** – To finance EuroCourse we needed funds. Hence, we applied for the program Youth in Action of the European Union. For that, we had already developed a first draft of the EuroCourse 2012 program. We decided that the topic of EuroCourse

2012 should be *Lost in translation? – Communication and Participation!*

**October 2011** – Bad news: The Youth in Action national agency dismissed our first application. But we did not give up, adapted the application and tried again.

**January 2012** – Yeah, great news: Our second application was successful. Now we could really launch the preparations for EuroCourse: writing invitations for participants, organizing field trips, an accommodation, a location for the trainings, looking for politicians for a panel discussion, answering questions, coordinating (with dozens of mails)...

**30 March 2012** – Early in the morning, the first participants arrived. Two groups of helpers accompanied the arriving groups from Catalonia, Belgium, Denmark, Slovakia,

Germany, Romania and Lithuania to our accommodation, the *Salesianum* in Munich. After the last few finishing touches, EuroCourse could begin with the clarification of expectations and some icebreaking games. Apart from the participants, there were also a few visitors from EuroClass from Denmark.

**31 March + 1 April 2012** – We started in working groups. The groups, accompanied by ten KJG leaders, explored the importance of communication and participation: How does it work? What are problems of communication and how can I solve them? Why are communication and participation important for me, in my voluntary work, my organization and the society? What possibilities do I have to participate? These and lots of more interesting questions were asked and answered.

**1 April 2012** – While the groups were working, another team of helpers prepared everything for the church service and the Bavarian Evening. (For some reason people in the shops look strangely at you if you have three completely full supermarket trolleys!)

**2 April 2012** – In the morning, we formed three groups for the field trips: The first group visited a student's office, the second group a children's magazine and the third group made a little movie. In the afternoon, we continued with a panel discussion with politicians from different parties about the future of Europe and possibilities for young people to participate in politics. In the evening, the participants presented their organizations.

**3 April 2012** – In the morning, there was a final unit about motivation. While some helpers were shopping for the international evening, every participant received a nice EuroCourse 2012 T-shirt to remember the great time. The day ended with an international evening with meals and presentations prepared by every group to introduce their country, and a closing party.

**4 April 2012** – Unfortunately, already the

last day of EuroCourse 2012 had arrived. We are thankful for the positive feedback we got in the evaluation; we really miss all our participants and we hope to meet again on other FIMCAP activities.

**April/May 2012** – Final evaluation and reports of our working team, then it is time to think about new international projects.

*Bernd Hirschberger, KJG Munich*



## EASTER COURSE 2012 IN KIEV, UKRAINE

**Spending Easter far away from home, far from the traditional Maltese festivity, was in itself something that put me off at first. Knowing almost nothing, neither about the country I was going to nor about the way they celebrate Easter, made me think more than twice before I applied for the Easter Course in Ukraine.**

Easter Course, as the name implies, is organised annually by the European Fellowship of Christian Youth ([www.europeanfellowship.com](http://www.europeanfellowship.com)) around Easter in a different country every year. It brings together youth from different countries with cultural diversities and different beliefs. Yet being so different from each other, this year's Easter Course participants came together to focus on sessions and discussions about human rights, tolerance, interreligious dialogues and the

effect that social network sites online are having on freedom of speech.

A typical day of the course consisted of: a reflection on the Bible passages related to the passion of Christ; sessions, discussions and games before and after lunch; before dinner, the planning team prepared workshops focussing on the direct relationship between oneself and God; the evenings full of fun activities varying from cultural, creative, relaxation and singing Karaoke.

The Ukrainians are not only known for their «wild dances» but also for being wild in everything they consider to be fun. In fact, one night they organised a «game» which I would rather call a tough battle in the middle of the forest in pitch darkness. And as if that was not enough, a few hours later,

a whole day travelling around the capital city Kiev awaited us. In the wonderful city of Kiev, we had the opportunity to visit school children and do some workshops on team building and communication; later, a veteran citizen recounted his experience of life as it used to be during Soviet times in communist Ukraine.

I don't regret having applied for this course, the friendships we made and the experience itself will surely help us five ŽAK participants in our daily work in our ŽAK groups. While my treasured memories of Ukraine linger on, I recommend you consider attending next year's Easter Course in Iceland: you're in for a great experience!

*Kris Gilson, ŽAK Malta*



# What do YOU need as a young person?

...think about it!

...and now

...what about sharing your thoughts with the rest of the world!

FIMCAP is launching a competition on the year theme for 2012 – What You(th) need?!

## AIM

to receive as much as possible feedback from young people about what the needs of young people are.

## WHO CAN APPLY

any local group from FIMCAP organizations.

## HOW

you are asked to work with your local group on the theme and to present youth needs through visual media such as photography, drawing or a video clip. Important: the work needs to be presented in the name of your local group.

## DEADLINE

Send your creations by the 12 December 2012 either:

- ▶ to the FIMCAP secretariat – [info@fimcap.org](mailto:info@fimcap.org);
- ▶ or post it on youtube, dropbox or google docs and send the link to FIMCAP secretariat;
- ▶ or save it on CD and send it to the FIMCAP secretariat. (Kipdorp 30, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium)

## SELECTION

The selection team shall choose the most creative presentation of youth needs. All creations will be posted on the FIMCAP website, in an online exposition.

## PRIZE

the winning group will appear on the cover of LINK magazine and will receive 200 € sponsoring for a local project or activity that they would like to set up.



**FIMCAP**  
What youth need?!

# COMPETITION